

## **“Charting the Landscape/Mapping New Paths”: Project Descriptions**

**1. Project Name: Birmingham Learning Initiative**

**2. Goal: The creation of a mixed-race, mixed income neighborhood in downtown Birmingham, AL where the city’s schools and cultural institutions play a major role in the development of human capital and the stability and success of the neighborhood**

**3. Participating institutions/agencies:**

**Annenberg Institute for School Reform**

**Birmingham Board of Education**

**Intown (a non-profit bringing together many of the community partners)**

**Major cultural institutions in the city: Birmingham Museum of Art, the Civil Rights Institute, Jazz Hall of Fame, Public Library, YMCA, University of Alabama at Birmingham, etc.**

**4. Your role/expertise in this type project:**

**Strategic planning and design for the initiative, with an emphasis on developing a wide range of cross-generational learning opportunities for children, youth and families**

**5. Outcomes / successes to-date:**

**Successful joint planning, 8 million dollars on the table for renovating historic Philips High School as the site for the neighborhood’s distinctive schools and family programs**

**6. Lessons learned :**

**Time it takes to develop a widely-shared vision**

**The importance of creating a “table” where community members have a seat and a voice in the long-range planning**

**7. If we began anew we would ask these questions at the beginning:**

**How do we create a process that encourages all participants to think boldly and not to stumble over established or familiar ways of doing things**

**8. Critical success factors:**  
**Wide community participation**

**9. Our next steps will be:**

**10. What else?**